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- 1 MS. MIKELS: Good afternoon. I am very grateful that the Department of Energy has brought these hearings to San Bernardino County. I am thankful to Senator Barbara Boxer for encouraging it, and for whatever the county has done to bring the hearing here. However, in all truth, I do believe the county has known for a very long time now, in my opinion, about both the routes for nuclear waste through our county and the fact that it's coming, and I have here a front-page article from the "Inland Valley Daily Bulletin" on February 20th, 1995, "Nuclear Waste through Counties" in which the map was attached, which showed the nuclear waste trucks coming down through Highway 10, Interstate 10, where we all go in and out of L.A., and then right through the Fontana area, over the 15 and the Cajon Pass out to the desert, all the way through the 15 to Nevada. We have known this for a long time.

And I say that because those people who have been trying to talk about it -- myself included -- but today I'd like to address Jeff Wright who has gone to great lengths to inform the Planning Commission, "SANBAG," our transportation agency and the County of San Bernardino, and he's sitting in jail. And he's sitting in jail because the county supervisors in this county don't want people to speak about this issue and want to maintain plausible deniability so that they can say, "We didn't know," when it comes time for election, such as is coming up for three of our supervisors.

Cathy Davis has done nothing. She was chairman of "SANBAG" when Jeff was trying to bring to her the information that he and I picked up when we went to the San Onofre power plant hearings. They are not leaving that there, as they should be, encapsulating it and building a big monument to the stupidity and folly of man in building nuclear power plants. Instead, they are going to cut it up in little pieces and put it on trucks and trains and bring it through our county.

The county has known for a long time. And John Mikels was the head of "RTAG," the Regional Transportation Agency, as well as the only two-term president of SCAG, Southern California Association of Governments, and also was the chairman of "SANBAG."

He knows, or should know, should he not, if he claims knowledge about this -- why doesn't he know about the fact that the nuclear waste is coming in from the power plants in Asia, Korea, China, Japan?

We took a trip in '88. He's known this stuff for ten years. They were going to bring it in through the Alameda Corridor, into the Long Beach and L.A. harbors, up the Alameda Corridor, put it on Highway 10 and bring it through our communities.

And with that in mind, he and Jerry Eaves have orchestrated the nuclear waste hub right in Fontana at the old Kaiser site where they have just covered all the pollution that was under the ground there and put in a brand new Penske Speedway, and so forth, and bringing in all of this economic development.

- 2 Now, you heard Randy Scott. Do we get the money directly from the federal government? That's what they are concerned about. And obviously, if we are going to have nuclear waste going through our county, we are not prepared. And I appreciate the honesty of Mr. Brierty in telling us that. Obviously, we are going to need a lot of money, but we don't want it; okay?

Here's an article, the same excuse was used when the low-level radioactive waste was being talked about coming through our county. And here's an article, "The county left out of the loop on key DOE changes." "County planning commissioners first learned of DOE's plans at their November 19th meeting where perennial local government watchdog citizen Jeff Wright spoke on the issue."

Okay. Jeff Wright is sitting in jail for speaking on these issues. He told about the plutonium at the Norton Air Force Base when he was on the Restoration Advisory Board there, and he's told about these issues all along. And what does he get? He gets incarcerated for it.

That's the kind of freedom of speech that we have because of our country's policy to support the nuclear industry against the health and safety of its citizens.

Now, it started back in the 40's and 50's with the world wars. And, yes, we had to fight the terrible fascism which we are getting over here big time in San Bernardino County, by the way -- but the fascism of Hitler. But, yes, we had to have the bomb, and we had to get it first. And we did that at Los Alamos, and so forth.

What's happened is after that, they had the Atoms for Peace. We have to do something with this wonderful thing that we have got for mankind. And we are going to spread this all around the world, and we are going to build nuclear power plants in Asia, and so forth. But they have got to bring the waste back here. Because if they have the waste there, they will be able to reprocess this into weapons-grade plutonium, and then they will get the bomb.

And what they weren't telling us is as this was happening, and Gingrich was giving us the contract on America, what they were really doing in Congress is they were setting up the U.S. Enrichment Corporation. The U.S. Enrichment Corporation established by Congress in the '90's is to sell overseas, both at home and domestically, enriched uranium. And the purpose is to maximize profits. And so while they are talking to us about we are caring about your health and safety, they are selling nuclear waste and enriched uranium all over the world.

And I had cancer last year, and John's field rep just died of cancer, and his sister died of cancer. Isn't it about time? You think about all the people in your families who have cancer, and tell us oh, there will only be 31 cancer fatalities. You know, there's cancer everywhere now. There's also all these children getting all of these diseases from this.

- 3 [And it's time we stop this. If you got nuclear waste, you keep it. There is nowhere in that Environmental Impact Statement where they even talked about stopping making it -- stopping making nuclear waste. Stop it.

[APPLAUSE.]

MS. MIKELS: I have brought and I wanted to read -- these are just the headlines from the last two years of the truck wrecks and 29 car crashes -- of the train wrecks -- of the train wrecks, of the gas truck explosions --

FACILITATOR HOLMES: Do you want to submit those for the record?

MS. MIKELS: 71 Amtrak -- I will be submitting more information for the record.

FACILITATOR HOLMES: I have allowed you some extra time.

MS. MIKELS: Thank you very much.

FACILITATOR HOLMES: Thank you very much. Okay. Bob Jefferson, to be followed by Bertram Wolfe.